Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Officer Involved Shooting

Report Date:	Bureau/Station/Facility:	Admin. Invest.?	Hit?
10-25-15	South Patrol Division/ South Los Angeles Station	☐	☑

Incident Information

URN: 015-09211-0372-013	Date: 10-19-15 Time: 2350Hrs
City or Station: South Los Angeles Station	Nature of Incident: Pursuit of reckless drunk driver who, once stopped, failed to exit vehicle. Suspect refused orders to show hands and continued to reach down, Deputy Maas fired four rounds at susp. striking him.
Location: [redacted] W. 111th Street Los Angeles, Ca. 90061	

Location Type (*check one or more*):
- ☐ Backyard
- ☐ Beach
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Freeway
- ☐ Industrial
- ☐ Park
- ☐ Parking Lot
- ☑ Residence
- ☐ Rural
- ☐ School
- ☑ Street
- Other:

Lighting (*check only one*):
- ☑ Darkness
- ☐ Daylight
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Street Lights

Weather (*circle only one*):
- ☑ Clear
- ☐ Cloudy
- ☐ Fog
- ☐ Rain

Distance:

Incident Type (*check one or more*):
- ☐ Accidental
- ☐ Armed Person
- ☑ Fleeing Suspect
- ☐ Foot Pursuit
- ☐ Gun Take Away
- ☑ Moving Vehicle
- ☐ Sniper/Ambush
- ☐ Startle
- ☐ Struggle Involved
- ☐ Traffic Stop
- ☐ Unarmed Person
- ☐ Unintentional
- ☑ Vehicle Pursuit
- ☐ Warrant Service
- ☐ Warning Shot
- Other:

Initiated by (*check only one*):
- ☐ Arrest Warrant
- ☐ Call
- ☑ Observation
- ☐ One Person Unit
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Search Warrant
- ☐ Two Person Unit

Prior Activity (*check only one*):
- ☐ Detective
- ☐ Inmate Transport
- ☐ Other
- ☑ Routine Patrol

Total # of Shots Fired by Deputy: 9

Total # of Shots Fired by Suspect:

Aero Unit? ☐ Canine Unit? ☐

Employee Witnesses

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.	ShiftTime (*check only one*)	ShiftType (*check only one*)
[redacted]	Vernay	Bryan	M.	☑ EM ☐ PM ☐ Day	☑ Regular ☐ Overtime ☐ Off Duty
				☐ EM ☐ PM ☐ Day	☐ Regular ☐ Overtime ☐ Off Duty
				☐ EM ☐ PM ☐ Day	☐ Regular ☐ Overtime ☐ Off Duty

Non-Employee Witnesses

Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Supervisors

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.	(*check one or more*)
[redacted]	Sumi	Mark	K.	☑ On Duty ☐ Present during shooting ☐ Witness to shooting ☐ Involved in shooting
[redacted]	Clay	Michael	M.	☑ On Duty ☐ Present during shooting ☐ Witness to shooting ☐ Involved in shooting

Watch Sergeant

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Watch Commander

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
[redacted]	Moore	Rodney	K.

PSTD Use Only

SH # ____________

Officer Involved Shooting

N: 015-09211-0372-013

Rollout Information

Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Date Submitted	Date of Recommendation
10/20/15	0130HRS		

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
[redacted]	Godfrey	Edward	R.
[redacted]	Moore	David	L.
[redacted]	Bracken	Sonja	M.

Shooting / Force Information

Method

(AW) Arwen
(BC) Baton:(Control)
(BI) Baton:(Impact)
(BF) Bodily Fluids
(CN) Canine
(CR) Carotid Restraint
(CH) Choke Hold
(CT) Control Holds:(Control Techniques)
(TT) Control Holds:(Team Takedown)
(TD) Control Holds:(Takedown)
(CE) Chemical
(OC) Chemical Agents (OC Spray)
(TG) Chemical Agents (Tear Gas)
(EX) Explosives
(FH) Firearm (Handgun)
(FR) Firearm (Rifle)
(FS) Firearm (Shotgun)
(FO) Firearm (Other)
(FB) Flashbang
(FL) Flashlight
(OE) Other Weapon: Edged
(OV) Other Weapon: Vehicle
(OB) Other Weapon: Blunt Object
(OO) Other Weapon: Other
(PK) Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Kick)
(PS) Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Sweep)
(PH) Personal Weapon (Hand/Arm)
(PP) Personal Weapon (Push)
(PO) Personal Weapon (Other)
(RS) Resistance
(CN) Restraint Device (Capture Net)
(RH) Restraint Device (Handcuffs)
(HB) Restraint Device:Hobble (Legs Only)
(TP) Restraint Device:Hobble (TARP)
(RE) Restraint Device: REACT Belt
(SP) Sap
(SH) Shield
(SG) 37mm Stinger
(SB) Sting Ball
(ST) Stun Bag
(TR) Taser
(UC) Uncooperative

Type of Injury

(AB) Abrasion
(BR) Bruise
(BU) Burn
(CP) Complaint of Pain
(CO) Concussion
(DH) Death
(DI) Dislocation
(DB) Dog Bite
(FR) Fractures
(GS) Gunshot
(HB) Human Bite
(LC) Lacerations
(ND) Nerve Damage
(OD) Organ Damage
(PA) Paralysis
(PW) Puncture Wound
(SD) Soft Tissue Damage
(ST) Sprain/Twists
(UN) Unconscious
(RM) Refused Med Treatment
(NN) NONE

Body Part Injured

(AD) Abdomen
(AK) Ankle
(AR) Arm
(BK) Back
(BT) Buttocks
(CH) Chest
(EL) Elbow
(FA) Face
(FE) Feet
(FI) Fingers
(GE) Genitals
(GR) Groin
(HD) Hand
(HE) Head
(HI) Hip
(IN) Internal
(KN) Knees
(LE) Leg
(NK) Neck
(SH) Shoulder
(WR) Wrist

Brand

(AK) AK-47
(BN) Benelli
(BR) Beretta
(BW) Browning
(CH) Charter Arms
(CO) Colt
(DA) Davis Industries
(GL) Glock
(HA) Harrington & Richardson
(HI) Hi Standard
(HK) H & K
(IT) Ithica
(IV) Iver Johnson
(JE) Jennings
(LO) Lorcin
(LU) Luger
(MA) Marlin
(MO) Mossberg
(NC) NCI aka SKS
(NA) North American
(NO) Norinco
(RA) Raven
(RM) Remington
(RG) RG
(RI) RGI
(RO) Rossi
(SW) Smith & Wesson
(SR) Sturm Ruger
(SS) SIG Sauer
(ST) Sterling
(TA) Taurus
(WE) Weatherby
(WN) Winchester
(US) US Government
(YY) Handmade (Inmate)
(XX) Homemade (Non-Inmate)
(ZZ) Other Brand

Caliber

(9) 9 mm
(10) 10 mm
(12) 12 guage
(20) 20 guage
(21) .22-250
(22) .22 caliber
(23) .223 caliber
(24) .243 caliber
(25) .25 caliber
(30) .308 caliber
(35) .357 caliber
(36) 30-60 caliber
(38) .38 caliber
(40) .40 caliber
(41) .410 guage
(44) .44 caliber
(45) .45 caliber
(50) 50 mm
(SL) Slug
(WW) Other caliber

FORCE APPLIED *(one code per block)*

Used By (E# or S#)	Used Against (E# or S#)	Method (Code)	Brand (Code)	Caliber (Code)	Authorized Weapon? (Y/N)	Authorized Ammunition? (Y/N)	Type of Injury (Code)	Body Part (Code)
S#1	E#1	UC					NN	
S#1	E#1	PH					NN	WR
S#1	E#1	PP					NN	BK
S#1	E#1	RS					NN	
E#1	S#1	FH	SW	9	Y	Y	GS, DH	AD,CH,HE,

Officer Involved Shooting
Involved Employee Information

URN: 015-09211-0372-013

Involved Employee

E #1

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
[redacted]	Maas	Robert	W.

Sex	Race	Rank	Unit Assignment	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.)
M	Wht	Deputy	South Los Angeles	Unit 31

ShiftTime (*circle only one*)	ShiftType (*circle only one*)	Intoxication/Drug Usage?	Substance Used
[x] EM [ ] PM [ ] Day	[x] Regular [ ] Overtime [ ] Off Duty	[ ]	

Hospital Admission?	Hospital Name	Coroner Case?	Coroner Case #	Interviewed?
[ ]		[x]	CI 1585328701	[x]

Hrs of sleep prior to shooting	Duty Time (hrs)	Clothing (*circle only one*)	Other Factors
		[ ] Plain Clothes no Vest [ ] Raid Jacket w/ Vest [ ] Plain Clothes w/ Vest [ ] Uniform no Vest [ ] Raid Jacket no Vest [x] Uniform w/ Vest	

Age	Height	Weight
29	6'02"	225lbs

Range Qualification Date	PPC Qualification Date	Laser Training Date
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Certified with Weapon Used?	Patrol Certification?	Certification Unit	Prior Shootings?	Number of Prior Shootings	Directed Force
[redacted]	[redacted]	SLA	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Weapons Fired Brand	Caliber	# Shots	Weapons Fired Brand	Caliber	# Shots
Smith & Wesson	9MM	9			

Field Training Officer Emp #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

E __

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.

Sex	Race	Rank	Unit Assignment	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.)

ShiftTime (*circle only one*)	ShiftType (*circle only one*)	Intoxication/Drug Usage?	Substance Used
[ ] EM [ ] PM [ ] Day	[ ] Regular [ ] Overtime [ ] Off Duty	[ ]	

Hospital Admission?	Hospital Name	Coroner Case?	Coroner Case #	Interviewed?
[ ]		[ ]		[ ]

Hrs of sleep prior to shooting	Duty Time (hrs)	Clothing (*circle only one*)	Other Factors
		[ ] Plain Clothes no Vest [ ] Raid Jacket w/ Vest [ ] Plain Clothes w/ Vest [ ] Uniform no Vest [ ] Raid Jacket no Vest [ ] Uniform w/ Vest	

Age	Height	Weight

Range Qualification Date	PPC Qualification Date	Laser Training Date

Certified with Weapon Used?	Patrol Certification?	Certification Unit	Prior Shootings?	Number of Prior Shootings	Directed Force
[ ]	[ ]		[ ]		[ ]

Weapons Fired Brand	Caliber	# Shots	Weapons Fired Brand	Caliber	# Shots

Field Training Officer Emp #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.

E __

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.

Sex	Race	Rank	Unit Assignment	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.)

ShiftTime (*circle only one*)	ShiftType (*circle only one*)	Intoxication/Drug Usage?	Substance Used
[ ] EM [ ] PM [ ] Day	[ ] Regular [ ] Overtime [ ] Off Duty	[ ]	

Hospital Admission?	Hospital Name	Coroner Case?	Coroner Case #	Interviewed?
[ ]		[ ]		[ ]

Hrs of sleep prior to shooting	Duty Time (hrs)	Clothing (*circle only one*)	Other Factors
		[ ] Plain Clothes no Vest [ ] Raid Jacket w/ Vest [ ] Plain Clothes w/ Vest [ ] Uniform no Vest [ ] Raid Jacket no Vest [ ] Uniform w/ Vest	

Age	Height	Weight

Range Qualification Date	PPC Qualification Date	Laser Training Date

Certified with Weapon Used?	Patrol Certification?	Certification Unit	Prior Shootings?	Number of Prior Shootings	Directed Force
[ ]	[ ]		[ ]		[ ]

Weapons Fired Brand	Caliber	# Shots	Weapons Fired Brand	Caliber	# Shots

Field Training Officer Emp #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.

See Other Side

SUPPLEMENTAL NON-EMPLOYEE WITNESSES
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Non-Employee Witnesses

Last Name [redacted] First Name [redacted] M.I. [redacted]
Street Address [redacted] Zip Code [redacted] Work Ph [redacted] Home Ph [redacted]

Last Name First Name M.I.
Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph

Last Name First Name M.I.
Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph

Last Name First Name M.I.
Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph

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Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph

Last Name First Name M.I.
Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph

Last Name First Name M.I.
Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph

Officer Involved Shooting
Suspect Information

URN: 015-09211-0372-013

Suspect Information

S#1

Last Name: Gossett		First Name: Dion	M.I. L.
AKA Last Name: Ramirez		First Name: Dion	M.I. L.
Sex: M Race: Black	Street Address: [redacted]	City: [redacted]	State & Zip Code: [redacted] [redacted]
Work Phone: [redacted]	Home Phone: [redacted]	Social Security #: [redacted]	Driver's License #: [redacted]
Age: 53 D.O.B. 07/07/62	Height: 5' 8" Weight: 190lb	FBI #: [redacted]	CII #: [redacted]
Booking #:	Primary Charge:	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ✓	Coroner Case #: 2015-07259	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ✓	Substance Used: Cocaine
Armed? ✓	Apprehended? ☐	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? [redacted]
Vehicle Make: Lexus Model: ES300	Year: 1999 Parole: [redacted]	Probation: [redacted]	Prior Felony Conviction: [redacted]

S

Last Name:		First Name:	M.I.
AKA Last Name:		First Name:	M.I.
Sex: Race:	Street Address:	City:	State & Zip Code:
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:	Driver's License #:
Age: D.O.B.	Height: Weight:	FBI #:	CII #:
Booking #:	Primary Charge:	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #:	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Armed? ☐	Apprehended? ☐	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? ☐
Vehicle Make: Model:	Year: Parole:	Probation:	Prior Felony Conviction:

S

Last Name:		First Name:	M.I.
AKA Last Name:		First Name:	M.I.
Sex: Race:	Street Address:	City:	State & Zip Code:
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:	Driver's License #:
Age: D.O.B.	Height: Weight:	FBI #:	CII #:
Booking #:	Primary Charge:	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #:	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Armed? ☐	Apprehended? ☐	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? ☐
Vehicle Make: Model:	Year: Parole:	Probation:	Prior Felony Conviction:

S

Last Name:		First Name:	M.I.
AKA Last Name:		First Name:	M.I.
Sex: Race:	Street Address:	City:	State & Zip Code:
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:	Driver's License #:
Age: D.O.B.	Height: Weight:	FBI #:	CII #:
Booking #:	Primary Charge:	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #:	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Armed? ☐	Apprehended? ☐	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? ☐
Vehicle Make: Model:	Year: Parole:	Probation:	Prior Felony Conviction:

See Other Side

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

INCIDENT:	**On-duty hit shooting, suspect deceased**
IAB FILE NUMBER:	**SH 2388831**
URN#:	**015-09211-0372-013**
DATE/TIME:	**October 19, 2015, 2348 hours**
LOCATION:	[redacted] **West 111th Street, Los Angeles**

SYNOPSIS

On Monday, October 19, 2015, an Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) Force and Shooting Rollout Team comprised of Lieutenant Edward Godfrey, Sergeant David Moore, and Sergeant Sonja Bracken responded to an on-duty hit shooting. The command post was established by South Los Angeles Sheriff's Station personnel. The shooting resulted in the death of Suspect Dion Lamont Gossett (MB/07/07/1962).

Detectives Troy Ewing and Theodor Baljet from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau arrived and assumed control of the investigation. For further information refer to the Homicide case book, under URN #015-09211-0372-013 **[EXHIBIT A]**.

SUMMARY

On Monday, October 19, 2015, Deputies Robert Maas and Robert Vernay, assigned to South Los Angeles Sheriff's Station, worked Unit 31 on early morning shift, starting at [redacted] hours. They were assigned vehicle SD6131, a marked black and white Sheriff's patrol vehicle. Deputy Robert Vernay was the driver and Deputy Robert Maas was the passenger (bookman).

At 2340 hours, Deputies Vernay and Maas approached the intersection of Vermont Avenue and Century Boulevard. They stopped in the northbound lane of Vermont Avenue, preparing to turn west onto Century Boulevard, at the red signal light.

Across the intersection they saw a 1999 Lexus ES 300 silver, four door sedan, license [redacted] (suspect vehicle) exit the Vermont Hotel parking lot and drive south on Vermont Avenue. The Lexus drove into the eastbound turn lane leading to Century Boulevard.

The Lexus straddled the lane border delineating the east turn lane and stopped for the red signal light.

Once the deputies' traffic signal turned green, Deputy Vernay proceeded into the intersection to turn left. Deputies Vernay and Mass noticed the Lexus remained stopped, even though it had a green signal.

Both deputies believed the driver (later identified as Suspect Gossett) was possibly under the influence of alcohol. Deputy Vernay turned into the Pizza Hut parking lot at the corner of Century Boulevard and Vermont Avenue and drove behind the building with the intention of re-entering Vermont Avenue and getting behind the Lexus. Deputy Vernay was initially delayed in re-entering Vermont Avenue due to a delivery truck blocking his path. Deputy Vernay drove around the truck and re-entered Vermont Avenue. The Lexus turned east onto Century Boulevard. Deputy Vernay followed the Lexus for 200 yards on Century Boulevard and saw it swerving and straddling lanes. **Refer to Deputy Vernay's Homicide transcripts, page 3, lines, 16-17.**

Deputy Vernay activated his radio car's overhead rotating lights to warn/cite the driver for CVC violations. The Lexus immediately pulled to the south curb line of Century Boulevard, east of Baring Cross Street. **Refer to Deputy Vernay's Homicide transcripts, page 3, lines 23-24.**

Both deputies exited their patrol car. Deputy Robert Maas approached on the passenger side of the Lexus. Deputy Vernay remained at the driver's door of his radio car. Once Deputy Maas reached the passenger side of the Lexus, Deputy Vernay approached on the driver's side. Deputy Maas ordered the occupants to open the windows and shut off the vehicle's engine. Once Deputy Vernay reached the Lexus' rear driver's door, it sped off at a high rate of speed. **Refer to Deputy Vernay's Homicide transcripts, page 8, line 28.**

Deputies Vernay and Maas returned to their radio car and followed the Lexus. Deputy Maas immediately broadcast via the radio they were in pursuit of a reckless DUI driver, east on Century Boulevard. **Refer to Deputy Vernay's Homicide transcripts, page 1.**

The pursuit continued for two minutes and forty-two seconds and traversed 2.15 miles. The highest estimated speed of the pursuing deputies was 46 miles per hour. The Lexus' highest speeds were estimated to be 60 miles per hour. See the attached South Los Angeles Station Vehicle Pursuit Package, **Exhibit C**. The pursuit traversed the following route:

- East on Century Boulevard
- South on Grand Avenue
- West on 104 Street (failing to stop at the posted stop sign on Figueroa Street)
- North on Figueroa Street
- East on 102nd Street

- South on Grand Avenue
- West on 107th Street (failing to stop at the posted stop sign at Figueroa Street)
- North on Figueroa Street
- East on 106th Street
- South on Grand Avenue (failing to stop at the posted stop sign at 108th Street)
- West on 111th Place
- North on Figueroa Street
- East on 111th Street

Suspect Gossett drove east on 111th Street where the pursuit ended at a cul-de-sac. As the Lexus approached the end of the street, cul-de-sac, it came to a skidding, momentary stop, and cantered in a south direction. **Refer to [EXHIBIT D] for an aerial photograph of 111th Street and also see Deputy Maas' Homicide transcripts, page 6.**

Deputy Vernay stopped the radio car at the end of the street, positioned in the middle of the street, at the opening/entrance/exit of cul-de-sac. There were cars parked along both sides of the narrow street. Deputies Vernay and Maas exited their radio car and stood in the apex of their open doors, on both sides of their vehicle (felony traffic stop), while detaining the occupants at gunpoint. Deputy Vernay broadcast via handheld radio they were detaining the suspect vehicle.

Suspect Gossett reversed the Lexus to the southern edge of the cul-de-sac, in a three point maneuver, and turned the Lexus west, facing Deputies Vernay and Maas. Suspect Gossett's Lexus was positioned near the front, passenger side of the radio car. Deputy Maas described the Lexus' front bumper to be four to eight feet from the front bumper of the radio car. Deputy Maas stated the Lexus was "lined up to hit the gap" between where he was standing at the radio car's passenger door and a parked white van on 111th Street. **Refer to Deputy Maas' Homicide transcripts, page 8.**

A female (later identified as Witness [redacted]) exited the front passenger seat of the Lexus and yelled, "He's crazy, he's crazy". Deputy Vernay ordered Witness [redacted] to raise her hands and walk toward him. Witness [redacted] continued to yell and remained at the passenger door.

Deputy Maas ordered Suspect Gossett to turn off the vehicle's engine and exit the vehicle numerous times, but Suspect Gossett refused to comply. Deputy Maas moved from the apex of patrol car's door, to the front of the white van, which was parked south of the patrol vehicle. Suspect Gossett looked at Deputy Mass and shook his head "no" while also verbally stating "no" to Deputy Maas. Suspect Gossett remained sitting in the driver's seat, with his window rolled down.

Both Deputy Maas and Deputy Vernay continued giving commands to Suspect Gossett and Witness [redacted] to no avail. Deputy Vernay remained at the driver's door of the radio car.

Deputy Mass stated he saw Suspect Gossett reach to the floorboard of the Lexus with his left hand, between the driver's seat and the door. Suspect Gossett also reached toward the back of the Lexus. Deputy Maas approached Suspect Gossett at the driver's door. **Refer to Deputy Maas' Homicide transcripts, page 7, lines 22-29.** Deputy Mass reached inside the open window and grasped Suspect Gossett's left arm. Suspect Gossett grabbed ahold of Deputy Maas' uniform shirt with his left hand and began driving the Lexus forward. Deputy Mass attempted to break free from Suspect Gossett's grasp and was able to pivot his body where he was facing west on 111th Street. Suspect Gossett's arm was behind Deputy Mass and pulling Deputy Mass toward the narrow space of the radio car and the parked van. Deputy Mass fired nine rounds from his duty weapon at Suspect Gossett and was able to disengage from Suspect Gossett as the Lexus continued forward. The Lexus collided with the rear passenger side of the radio car and another parked car further west on 111th Street. See the below summary of Deputy Maas' statements.

Witness [redacted] immediately lied on the ground and yelled "he didn't have a gun."

Deputy Vernay broadcast the deputy involved shooting inadvertently on the L-Tac frequency via portable radio.

IAB NOTE: "L-Tac" is a tactical frequency and used for car to car communication and not for communication through a radio traffic officer.

Deputies Ricardo Cobian and Angel Vasquez were the first to arrive. Neither deputy saw any part of the pursuit, nor did they hear any gunshots as they arrived. Deputy Ricardo Cobian took control of the radio communications and requested paramedics. He also established a containment of the scene.

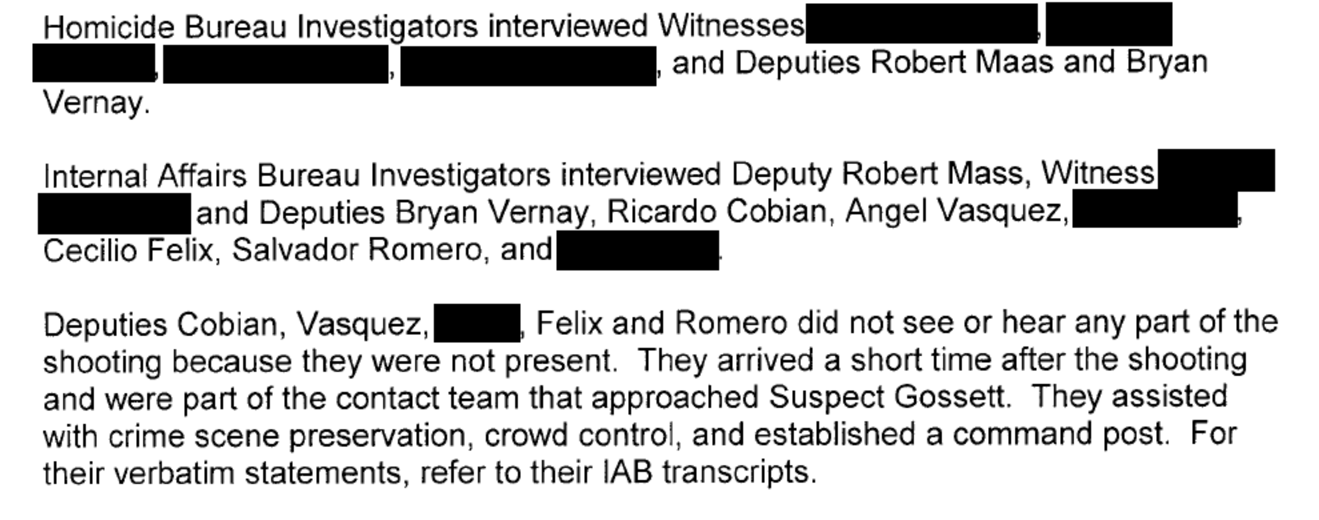
Within minutes of the shooting, Sergeant Michael Clay arrived and contacted the involved deputies. He transported them to South Los Angeles Sheriff's station.

Paramedic Lavalle arrived on scene and pronounced Suspect Gossett deceased at 0007 hours on October 20, 2015.

INVESTIGATION

IAB Lieutenant Godfrey checked to ensure the Century Station Watch Commander, Lieutenant Rodney Moore, took reasonable steps to ensure the involved parties and witnesses did not discuss the incident amongst themselves or with uninvolved persons prior to being interviewed by the assigned investigators.

In addition, Lieutenant Godfrey also ensured Lieutenant Moore knew the aforementioned parties should not collectively consult with their attorney or representative. Lieutenant Godfrey confirmed the involved personnel and witness personnel were gathered in the company of a supervisor until they provided a statement to the assigned investigators.



Homicide Bureau Investigators interviewed Witnesses [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], and Deputies Robert Maas and Bryan Vernay.

Internal Affairs Bureau Investigators interviewed Deputy Robert Mass, Witness [redacted] and Deputies Bryan Vernay, Ricardo Cobian, Angel Vasquez, [redacted], Cecilio Felix, Salvador Romero, and [redacted].

Deputies Cobian, Vasquez, [redacted], Felix and Romero did not see or hear any part of the shooting because they were not present. They arrived a short time after the shooting and were part of the contact team that approached Suspect Gossett. They assisted with crime scene preservation, crowd control, and established a command post. For their verbatim statements, refer to their IAB transcripts.

DEPUTY ROBERT MAAS

Deputy Robert Maas was interviewed by Homicide Bureau investigators and Internal Affairs Bureau investigators. The following is a combined summary of the interviews. For exact wording and verbatim statements, refer to the transcripts.

Deputy Maas had been assigned to South Los Angeles Sheriff's Station for approximately three years.

Deputy Maas explained he and Deputy Vernay stopped for a red light as they were preparing to turn west, onto Century Boulevard, from northbound Vermont Avenue. Deputy Maas saw a Lexus exit the Vermont Hotel's parking lot and drive south on Vermont Avenue. The Lexus drove into the left turn lane, preparing to turn east on Century Boulevard, and was positioned directly across from them.

When the signal turned green, Deputy Maas and Deputy Vernay began their turn onto west Century Boulevard. Deputy Maas noticed the Lexus remained at the intersection even though it had a green turn arrow. Deputy Maas believed the driver might be under the influence, or asleep at the wheel. Deputy Vernay continued through the intersection and turned into a liquor store parking lot on the corner of Vermont Avenue and Century Boulevard in an effort to conduct a traffic stop.

The Lexus completed its turn onto Century Boulevard and drove east. Deputy Maas saw the vehicle moving from lane to lane. Deputy Vernay activated the radio car's overhead lights and conducted a traffic stop, east of Vermont Avenue.

Deputy Maas exited his radio car, approached on the passenger side of the Lexus, and told the occupants to roll down their windows. The Lexus sped away. Deputy Maas stated he heard a female scream unintelligibly from the vehicle as it drove away.

Deputy Maas said he and Deputy Vernay returned to their radio car. Deputy Maas broadcast they were in pursuit via their patrol car's radio. Deputy Maas broadcast the pursuit as the Lexus drove between the north/south streets of Grand Avenue and Figueroa Street and numerous east/west streets that are between Grand Avenue and Figueroa Street. Deputy Maas said it appeared that Suspect Gossett circled the above described area.

After several loops between Figueroa, Grand, 102nd Street, 104th Street, 106th Street, that lasted over two and half minutes, the Lexus turned onto 111th Street, a cul-de-sac. Deputy Maas stated Suspect Gossett's highest speed reached 60 to 70 miles per hour and he (Suspect Gossett) also drove through several stop signs with a complete lack of care for the public. **Refer to Homicide transcripts, page 6, lines 17-20.**

Deputy Maas said Suspect Gossett drove to a skidding stop at the cul-de-sac and turned his vehicle to the north. Deputy Vernay stopped the radio car at the opening of the cul-de-sac. The Lexus made a three point turn to where it faced them, in a westerly direction. Their radio car faced east. The Lexus came to a stop four to eight feet in front of their patrol vehicle.

Deputy Maas noticed Suspect Gossett had aligned the Lexus so it pointed directly into the gap between the passenger side of the radio car and a parked white van on the south curb. Initially when their patrol vehicle stopped, Deputy Maas detained Suspect Gossett at gunpoint from the door of his vehicle. However, he looked around and saw he was in a "tight spot" poor tactical location. Deputy Maas stepped to the south, to an area in front of the van, and continued yelling over fifteen commands for Suspect Gossett to turn off the engine. Suspect Gossett acknowledged the commands which were indicated by him shaking his head "no" and also replying "no." Suspect Gossett reached down to the floorboard of the Lexus. Deputy Maas believed Suspect Gossett was reaching for a weapon and feared a shooting would take place if he retrieved a firearm. Deputy Maas walked an estimated 3 to 5 steps to the driver's side door of the Lexus.

Deputy Maas reached into Lexus' open driver's window with his left hand and grabbed Suspect Gossett's left arm which was between the driver's seat and door. Suspect Gossett immediately grabbed onto his shirt sleeve and pulled it downward. Deputy Maas pinned what he believed to be Deputy Gossett's triceps to the window ledge. Deputy Maas gave commands for Suspect Gossett to show his hands and put the vehicle into park. Suspect Gossett accelerated forward and Suspect Gossett's arm extended around Deputy Maas' body.

Deputy Maas was facing east with his Department issued firearm in his right hand, across his body, aimed at Suspect Gossett. **Refer to Deputy Maas' Homicide transcripts, page 9, lines, 20-22.**

Suspect Gossett accelerated forward. Now moving in a western direction, Deputy Maas turned his body to the west to face the same direction the car was going. When he turned west, he released his grip on Suspect Gossett's arm and Suspect Gossett released his grip of Deputy Maas' left arm. However, Deputy Maas still felt attached to the car. **Refer to Homicide transcripts, page 10, lines 1-22 and IAB's transcripts dated August 9, 2017, page 18.**

Deputy Maas felt himself being pushed forward by Suspect Gossett's left arm which was now behind his back. Deputy Maas felt he could not get out of Suspect Gossett's grasp. **Refer to Homicide's transcripts, page 12, lines 17-21.**

Deputy Maas stated Suspect Gossett had ahold of him and was pushing him forward as they approached the gap between the patrol vehicle and the white van parked along the south curb line. Deputy Maas saw as he was pushed westward, he was now in the gap of the white van to his left and the patrol vehicle to his right. He knew there was no way Suspect Gossett's vehicle was going to fit between the two vehicles if he continued to accelerate forward. **Refer to homicide transcripts, page 17, lines 9-13.** Deputy Maas believed if the vehicle continued into the gap, he would be seriously injured or killed by being crushed. Nearing the gap, Deputy Maas discharged his Smith and Wesson, 9MM weapon, approximately 4-5 times at Suspect Gossett in a downward motion.

IAB NOTE: **A diagram of the scene drawn by Forensic Specialist M. Bayer indicated the gap between the parked patrol vehicle and the white van which was parked on the south side of the street was nine feet two inches at the front of the patrol vehicle. The gap at the rear of the patrol vehicle and another parked vehicle on the south side of the street was seven feet eight inches. Research via "Google" revealed the width of Suspect Gossett's vehicle is five feet eleven inches. Refer to [EXHIBIT E].**

DEPUTY BRYAN VERNAY

Deputy Vernay was interviewed by Homicide Bureau investigators and Internal Affairs Bureau investigators. The following is a combined summary of the interviews. For exact wording and verbatim statements, refer to the transcripts.

Deputy Vernay told investigators he was driving the radio car the night of the incident. They were driving north on Vermont Avenue approaching Century Boulevard when they entered the westbound turn lane to Century Boulevard.

They stopped at the intersections red signal light.

Across the intersection, a Lexus turned onto south Vermont Avenue from the Vermont Hotel parking lot, and drove into the east turn lane preparing to turn onto Century Boulevard. Deputy Vernay saw the Lexus had straddled the lane that delineated the turn pocket.

Deputy Vernay explained when their turn arrow turned green and he turned west onto Century Boulevard they noticed Suspect Gossett's vehicle remained stopped.

Deputy Vernay completed his turn and immediately turned into a Pizza Hut/Liquor store parking lot in an effort to re-enter southbound Vermont Avenue and get behind the Lexus. Once Deputy Vernay was able to re-enter Vermont Avenue, Suspect Gossett's vehicle had already proceeded through the intersection and was driving east on Century Boulevard. They got behind the Lexus and saw it was swerving lane to lane as it continued east. At that time, he decided to stop the Lexus to conduct a driving under the influence investigation.

Deputy Vernay conducted a traffic stop. As he approached Suspect Gossett's vehicle, it drove away east on Century Boulevard. Deputies Vernay and Maas returned to their radio car and pursued Suspect Gossett. As Deputy Vernay began to pursue Suspect Gossett, he left the patrol car's overhead lights on and thought he turned on the audible siren. However, Deputy Vernay stated as he rushed back into his vehicle and began to pursue Suspect Gossett, he may have neglected to turn on the siren. Primarily, Suspect Gossett remained on Grand Avenue and Figueroa Street, making east/west turns on streets in between. Suspect Gossett drove through several posted stop signs throughout the pursuit.

Deputy Vernay said the pursuit took place in a residential area where the posted speed limit is 25 miles per hour. Deputy Vernay did not believe the pursuit speeds ever went over 40 to 45 miles per hours and did not cancel the pursuit. **Refer to transcripts, page 11, lines 27-32.**

About 2-3 minutes after the start of the pursuit, Suspect Gossett turned east onto 111th Street from Figueroa Street. Suspect Gossett's vehicle stopped at the end of 111th Street, a cul-de-Sac. Deputy Vernay drove down 111th Street. He saw the Lexus turn to the north at the end of the street. Deputy Vernay stopped the radio car at the mouth of the cul-de-sac because he did not want the pursuit to continue if Suspect Gossett attempted to drive west out of the cul-de-sac. He and Deputy Maas detained the occupants at gunpoint.

When Suspect Gossett stopped his vehicle it was facing directly at them. Upon stopping, a female (Witness [redacted]) exited the vehicle via the front passenger door. Witness [redacted] immediately started yelling, "He's crazy."

Deputy Vernay repeatedly ordered Witness [redacted] to lie on the ground but she refused to comply. Deputy Vernay also heard Deputy Maas giving commands to the driver. Deputy Vernay saw Deputy Maas step to the south and take a position near the front of a white van parked. **Refer to transcripts, page 6, lines 1-11.**

Deputy Vernay kept his focus on Witness [redacted] but did see Deputy Maas approach the driver's side door of Suspect Gossett's vehicle. Deputy Vernay could not see what occurred, but heard Deputy Maas repeatedly giving commands to the driver to show his hands. While Deputy Maas was next to the door, he saw the Lexus begin to drive forward. Deputy Maas remained at the driver's side door as the Lexus drove west. Deputy Vernay saw Deputy Maas was somehow entangled with Suspect Gossett, but did not know how it occurred. **Refer to transcripts, page 6, lines 11-29.**

Deputy Vernay could see Suspect Gossett's vehicle was headed straight for the wedge between the radio car and the white van parked on the south side of the street.

He recalled thinking there was no way Suspect Gossett's vehicle was going to fit between the two cars and feared an assault was about to take place. Deputy Vernay felt he could not do anything from his position and hoped Deputy Maas could break free from Suspect Gossett.

Deputy Vernay heard 4-5 gunshot and used his handheld radio to advise units they had been involved in a shooting. Deputy Vernay said the shooting occurred 15 seconds after they started to detain the Lexus at gunpoint.

Specifically, after Deputy Vernay saw Deputy Maas step off to the south and take another position, the shooting occurred within 15 seconds. **Refer to follow-up interview transcripts, page 6, lines 10-30.**

IAB investigators used a series of photographs during their interview with Deputy Vernay, **EXHIBIT F.**

The first photograph was used to illustrate the location of the Vermont Hotel and what Suspect Gossett did when he exited the hotel parking lot. Refer to pages six to eight of Deputy Vernay's IAB transcripts.

Photographs 2 and 3 were used to show Deputy Vernay an aerial view of the residential area of where the pursuit occurred. Refer to page 12 of Deputy Vernay's IAB transcripts.

Photograph 4 was shown to Deputy Vernay to depict the location of his patrol vehicle at the terminus of the pursuit. Deputy Vernay also drew on the photograph to indicate the position of Suspect Gossett's vehicle. Refer to pages 13-14 of Deputy Vernay's IAB transcripts.

WITNESS [redacted]

Witness [redacted] was interviewed by Homicide Bureau investigators. The following is a summary of her interview. For exact wording and verbatim statements, refer to the transcripts.

Witness [redacted] said she was with Suspect Gossett that night prior to the shooting. She knew Suspect Gossett as "Tommy." Prior to getting into his car, she had been at a Burger King restaurant on Broadway and Century Boulevard. While at the restaurant she met Suspect Gossett and he bought her some food. After finishing the meal, Suspect Gossett drove Witness [redacted] to his house to meet his cousin (unknown name). She recalled Suspect Gossett's house was near the intersection of Florence Avenue and Western Avenue, Los Angeles. Witness [redacted] considered Suspect Gossett her friend even though she only met him that night for the first time.

Witness [redacted] explained after a short visit at Suspect Gossett's apartment, she and Suspect Gossett drove away in his Lexus. They were on the road for about five minutes when the sheriff's vehicle got behind them. Witness [redacted] heard a siren and saw the red and blue lights from the patrol vehicle. The lights and siren were not on long before Suspect Gossett drove onto the dead-end street.

Witness [redacted] said once Suspect Gossett drove down the street he pulled over and stopped. Witness [redacted] did not know why deputies had stopped Suspect Gossett because he had not broken any laws. When Suspect Gossett got to the dead end, he ultimately turned his vehicle around to where it faced the deputies. She recalled he could not have gone anywhere due to the deputies blocking them in. Witness [redacted] described the street as narrow with cars parked on both sides.

Witness [redacted] admitted she got out of the vehicle, screamed at the deputies not to shoot him, and put her hands in the air. She added, Suspect Gossett followed the law, placed his hands on the wheel, and they "shot him for no reason." Witness [redacted] was able to see Suspect Gossett's hands were on the steering wheel through the open window.

Witness [redacted] explained the deputies that approached the vehicle kept saying "I'm gonna shoot you" as they walked toward the car.

IAB NOTE: **Homicide investigators attempted to have Witness [redacted] identify herself on tape by showing her a recent booking photograph of herself. The booking photograph was under the name of [redacted]. However, Witness [redacted] denied being in the photograph, and stated she had never been arrested.**

DEPUTY [redacted]

Deputy [redacted] did not hear or see Deputy Maas shoot his firearm. When he arrived at the cul-de-sac with his [redacted] (Deputy Romero), he saw deputy personnel detaining the Lexus at gunpoint and additional deputies detaining a female who was standing in the middle of the street at gunpoint. Deputy [redacted] said the female was yelling, "He's gonna kill you." Deputy [redacted] also heard the female yell for someone to call Suspect Gossett's family.

Deputy [redacted] recalled as he approached to assist in the detention of the female, she was handcuffed by an unknown deputy. The unknown deputy began to walk the female toward a patrol vehicle and then asked him (Deputy [redacted]) to detain her in a patrol vehicle.

Deputy [redacted] saw a sergeant arrive on scene but did not remember who it was. The sergeant assisted and formed a contact team of deputies to approach Suspect Gossett's vehicle. Deputy [redacted] was not a part of the contact team. Deputy [redacted] saw other deputies contact Suspect Gossett and remove him from his vehicle.

Deputy [redacted] approached the suspect and did not see him move. Based on his past [redacted], he approached Suspect Gossett to see if medical aid was needed. Deputy [redacted] did not see Suspect Gossett breathing and saw he did not have a pulse. Deputy [redacted] looked for some gloves and immediately the Los Angeles City paramedics arrived and examined Suspect Gossett.

IAB NOTE: **Deputy [redacted] stated he has been a [redacted]. Prior to becoming a deputy he worked for "[redacted]" which provided services for the residents of [redacted] County.**

WITNESS [redacted]

On September 11, 2017, IAB investigators interviewed civilian Witness [redacted] at her residence at [redacted]. The following is a summary of her interview. For exact wording and verbatim statements refer to transcripts.

Witness [redacted] said the incident occurred [redacted] in [redacted] of her house. On October 19, 2015, Witness [redacted] was in her living room talking on her telephone when she heard tires screeching outside and in front of her house. She recalled it was late at night and believed it to be around midnight when she heard the noise.

Witness [redacted] pulled back the blinds of her front window and looked outside. She saw a vehicle facing west on 111th Street stopped in the road. She turned away and continued her phone conversation. A few seconds later she heard another vehicle stop in [redacted] of her house and saw blue and red lights shining throughout her house.

Witness [redacted] looked out her window again and saw the sheriff's had stopped in [redacted] of her house. The sheriff's car was facing east, and the other vehicle was facing west. She replaced the blinds and returned to her phone call. As she carried on her phone conversation, Witness [redacted] heard what she believed to be deputies yelling "show me your hands, get out of the car." She did not remember seeing a female that night, but heard via later news casts, that a female passenger was involved.

As she continued talking, she heard a vehicle accelerate. She looked out the window and saw the vehicle facing west (Suspect Gossett) moving to the west. She explained as the vehicle moved, she heard gunshots and then what she believed to be a crash. Witness [redacted] did not see the gunshots take place, nor the collision, as she had turned her attention back to her phone call. Witness [redacted] said the gunshots took place prior to the collision.

Witness [redacted] explained she had been speaking to the father of her child about child support payments. She mentioned it was an important phone call and her attention was related to the phone call, as opposed to what was happening outside.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S LETTER OF OPINION

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office reviewed the fatal shooting of Dion Gossett by Deputy Robert Maas **[EXHIBIT B].**

In their letter of opinion, dated November 15, 2016, Deputy District Attorney James Garrison concluded Deputy Robert Maas acted lawfully and in self-defense when he used deadly force against Suspect Dion Gossett.

INVOLVED PERSONNEL

Robert Maas, Deputy Sheriff, #[redacted]
Central Patrol Division
South Los Angeles Sheriff Station

WORK HISTORY

Date of Employment: July, 14, 2005
Date Assigned to Patrol: [redacted]
Date Completed Patrol Training: [redacted]
Date Assigned to Century Station: [redacted]
Prior Shooting Incident(s): [redacted]
Prior Founded Force Incident(s): [redacted]



EQUIPMENT WORN ON PERSON

Radio, Baton, Handcuffs,
Smith and Wesson, M&P, 9MM, semi-automatic handgun, with two magazines

SUSPECT INFORMATION

Dion Lamont Gossett
Male, Black, DOB: July 7, 1962, 5'08", 180 pounds
Deceased
CII #[redacted], MAIN #[redacted], FBI #[redacted]

SUSPECT INJURIES

Multiple (9) gunshot wounds, one to the head, five to the left upper chest, two to the right upper chest, and one to the right arm. Major injuries include perforations of the heart, both lungs, liver, right kidney, trachea, aorta, and severe associated internal hemorrhage. For further description, refer to coroner autopsy report, pages 47-52 of the Homicide case book (**Exhibit A**).

DEPUTY INJURIES

Deputy Maas complained of pain to his left wrist, right ankle and knee.
He declined any medical attention.

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

All physical evidence was located and collected by Forensic Specialist Deputy John Chun, from Scientific Services Bureau.

Evidence was documented by Homicide Bureau investigators and Scientific Services Bureau personnel; refer to **[EXHIBIT A, page 173-195].** Additionally, a DVD containing crime scene photographs were provided with this case **[EXHIBIT D].**

Additional evidence was recovered by Firearms Examiner Deputy Ivan Chavez. Deputy Chavez determined Deputy Robert Maas fired nine rounds from his handgun **[EXHIBIT A, page 189-190].**

INVESTIGATORS OBSERVATIONS

The scene was described in detail by Homicide Detectives Theodor Baljet and Troy Ewing **[Exhibit A, page 27-31]**.

Homicide investigator's description of the scene was consistent with IAB investigator's observations. The scene was also photographed and sketched by Forensic Specialist M. Bayer and Senior Criminalist Leslie Thompson.

WEAPON USED BY DEPUTY MAAS

Smith and Wesson, model M&P, 9mm semiautomatic handgun.

WEAPON USED BY SUSPECT GOSSETT

A 1999 Lexus 300ES, License #[redacted].

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Collision damage to the left rear quarter panel of Sheriff's vehicle #SD 6131. In addition there was collision damage to the passenger side of the 1999 Lexus license [redacted].

Collision damage to the front bumper of a green Chevrolet Astro van license [redacted] parked along the south curb line. The collision damage was caused by Suspect Gossett's vehicle colliding into it and coming to a rest after the shooting.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS

The criminal investigation into the shooting was handled by Homicide Bureau Detectives Theodor Baljet and Troy Ewing.

LIGHTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

The incident occurred on a cul-de-sac street which had a street light and other residential yard lights on at the time.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Suspect Gossett was found to be under the influence of cocaine at the time of the incident **[EXHIBIT A, page 67-68].**

On the night of the incident, Suspect Gossett had a front seat female passenger. The female gave Homicide Bureau investigators the name of [redacted] on the night of the incident. Homicide Investigators interviewed [redacted] regarding the incident. For exact statements and wording, refer to transcripts of their interview.

[redacted] would not give Homicide Bureau investigators a phone number or address at the time of their interview stating she was a transient. Investigators learned her true name to be [redacted]. [redacted]'s record indicated she had been [redacted] and was currently on [redacted]. One address was repeatedly used in her booking records. That address was [redacted]. The latest phone number she listed in any of her records was a cell phone number of [redacted].

On September 1, 2017, IAB investigators drove to the addresses of [redacted] to try and locate and interview Witness [redacted]. The first residence was occupied by the [redacted] family who has lived at the address since June of 2017. They did not know Witness [redacted].

At the second address, investigators were unable to contact anyone as no one was home. A business card was left at the location requesting a phone call from the resident. As of the submission of this case, investigators have not heard from anyone at the location.

During the investigation into this matter, it was discovered that during the pursuit by Deputies Maas and Vernay they did not have their audible siren on.

The discovery was made by Century Station Operations staff by listening to the radio traffic of the pursuit as both deputies had been patrolling with their windows down. Deputy Maas was not aware at the time of the pursuit that the audible siren was not sounding.

Deputy Vernay was not aware at the time of the pursuit they did not have their audible siren activated. He stated in his second Internal Affairs Bureau interview after the initial vehicle stop where Suspect Gossett drove away on Century Boulevard, he hurried back into the patrol car and began the pursuit.

He said he may have overlooked turning the audible siren on at that time. **Refer to second Internal Affairs Bureau interview, page 5, line 1-5.**

Deputy Maas said he did not know how the audible siren did not get activated. **Refer to transcripts, page 7, lines 25-26.**

The pursuit travelled 2.15 miles and lasted for 2 minutes and 42 seconds **[EXHIBIT C].**

Suspect Gossett's vehicle was illuminated by a street light, the patrol vehicle's headlights, spotlight, and Deputy Maas' weapon mounted light. **Refer to Deputy Maas' Internal Affairs Bureau transcripts, page 12, lines 24-29.**